

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 remain in this application. Claims 8-18 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement. In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 1-18 in a divisional application.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sridhar et al, US Patent Application Publ. 2005/0074650 A1.

Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claim 1 is directed to "An electrolyte sheet comprising a body of varied thickness, said electrolyte sheet having a textured surface with multiple protruding features, said protruding features forming an undercut angle with respect to the normal of said electrolyte sheet, said undercut angle being more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees".

The Examiner stated that Fig 13 of the Sridhar reference illustrates an electrolyte sheet with "protruding features forming an undercut angle with respect to the normal of said electrolyte sheet, said undercut angle being more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees". Applicants respectfully disagree with this statement for the following reason:

Applicant's figures 9A-9C, for example, show an electrolyte sheet with undercut angles θ . These angles θ are measured, with respect to the normal as shown in **Illustration A** (see enclosed). According to claim 1, these angles θ are "more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees".

Although the Sridhar reference discloses an electrolyte sheet with protruding (or dimpled) feature, there is no disclosure of them forming "an undercut angle with

respect to the normal of said electrolyte sheet, said undercut angle being more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees.” Fig 13 of this reference shows an electrolyte sheet that has no “undercut angles”. Finally, as shown in the **Illustration B** (see enclosed), the angles formed by the “protrusions” illustrated in Figure 13 of the cited reference, with respect to the normal, is much larger than 15 degrees.

That is, as shown in Fig 13 of the cited reference (See **Illustration B**, enclosed), the angles θ' formed by the features with respect to the normal are not more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees. In fact, these angles are larger than 90°. Moreover, as mentioned above, and as can be seen from this figure, they are not “undercut” angles. For illustrations of exemplary undercut angles, please see Applicant’s figures 9A-9C (**Illustration A**).

Thus, the Sridhar reference does not disclose an electrolyte sheet with “protruding features forming an undercut angle with respect to the normal of said electrolyte sheet, said undercut angle being more than 0 degrees and less than 15 degrees”.”.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Sridhar reference (US Patent Application Publ. 2005/0074650 A1). Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 as their base claims and, therefore, expressly incorporate the language of claim 1. Thus, claims 2-7 also are not anticipated by the by Sridhar reference.

Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Svetlana Z. Short at 607-974-0412.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE:

2/27/08

Svetlana Z. Short

Svetlana Z. Short

Attorney for Assignee

Registration Number: 34,432

Corning Incorporated

SP-TI-03-1

Corning, NY 14831

Phone: 607-974-0412